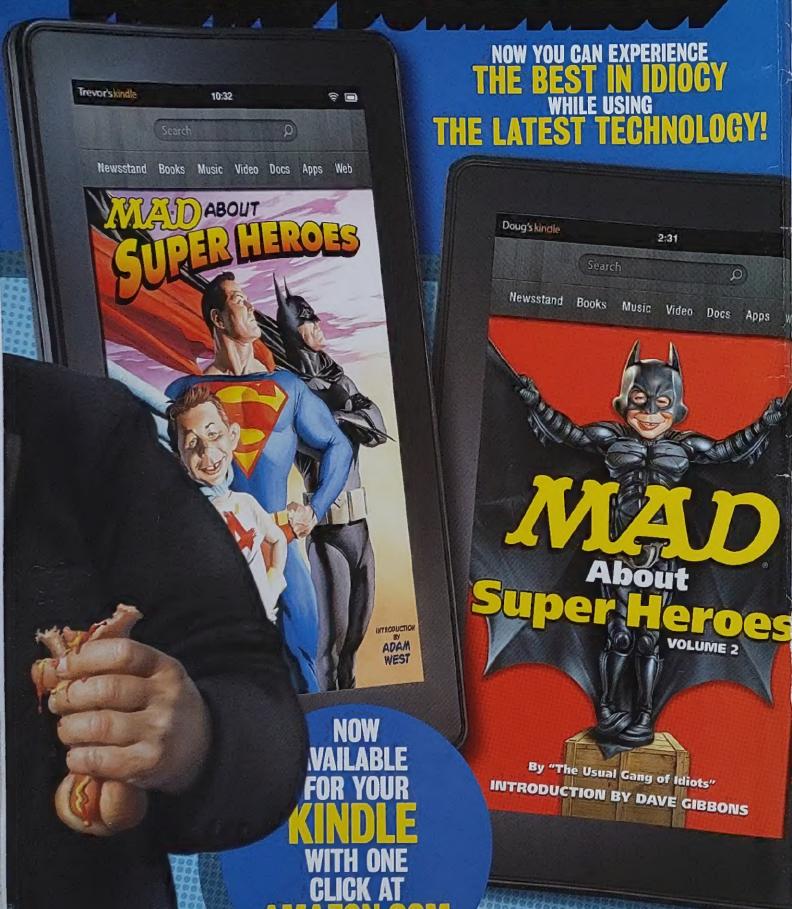


# DIGITAL DUMBNESS!



(That's something, huh? Pretty soon, we'll be banking with mind wayes.)

epartments

No one's doing anything about the growing apathy in this country!

**NUMBER 514 APRIL 2012** 



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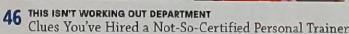
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> > COVER ARTIST: MARK FREDRICKSON









10 Weeks for change of address to become effective, and include mailing label when making change of address of inquiring about your beautiful part of the property of the prop The names of characters used in all MAD fiction and semi-fiction are fictitious. A similarity without satiric purpose to a living person is a coincidence, Printed in U.S.A.

# Letters and Tomatoes

## TIGER, TIGER, NOT SO BRIGHT

As appreciative as I am of the insights and penetrating humor of your publication, my appreciation of #513 was marred by a typo in item 10 ("Tiger Moms") of your MAD 20. Having just returned from several years of work in China to the "Tiger Mom" phenomenon in all its hubristic, racist excess, I was enthralled by this article until I encountered the term "Laogia" — which is a typo. The word you were referring to is "Laogai." While the typo detracted somewhat from your brilliant article on this subject, I'm presuming that all MAD readers are multilingual and that your mailbox is overflowing with letters from others who caught this typo even before I did.

Kirby Vining · Washington, DC

Kirby Your Enthusiasm — Amazingly, you're the first to notice that mistake. You're also the first to use the term "hubristic, racist excess" in the letters pages (we're guessing you were super-duper-popular in China)! But it's not our readers' fault for overlooking that typo — after all, they were raised by lazy, shiftless American mothers who never bullied them into studying 12 hours a day! Their loss! —Ed.

## GETTING TO THE ART OF THE MATTER

If you were in the Seattle area recently, hopefully you stopped by Urban Light Studios to see their exhibit, "It's a MAD MAD MAD MAD Show: Inspirations from MAD Magazine." It featured a bunch of MAD-themed artwork from a bunch of different non-MAD artists. If you missed it, don't beat yourself up (seriously, life goes on, you know?) — you can check out a ton of pics from the show at urbanlightstudios.com!





Dave Bloomfield





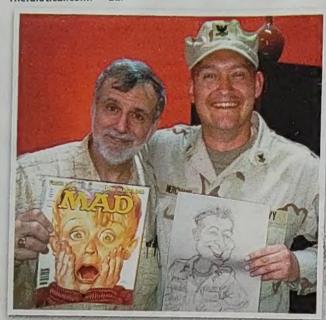
Xavler Lopez, Jr.

## **ALL SAILS FINAL**

It was real cool to see your art director Sam at one of our USO tents in Kuwait for the troops! He gave a great drawing of myself and signed one issue he worked on back from 1991! It's people like him who bring "home" a little closer and make the madness of deployment a little better.

Sean Merchant, Sailor Sean Stuck in the Sand, NAVELSG-FORWARD • Bravo Company

Merch Table — First off, thank you for your service. Secondly, an even BIGGER thank you for taking Sam off our hands for a few days! (That guy can be more trouble than a Lohan!) For those of you who didn't know, back in October, MAD Art Director Sam Viviano went with members of the National Cartoonists Society on a USO trip to Kuwait, Germany and an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia to entertain the troops. At least, that's what it was supposed to be about — we have serious suspicions that Sam only went so that he could get the free airline headphones. You can read all about Sam's experiences overseas on our blog, Theldiotical.com! —Ed.



## THE DUMB PERCENT

First, on Sunday, I went to Occupy Wall Street as the Black Spy. So if you see a kid in a Spy vs. Spy costume, it's me. Second, in issue 512, in the MAD departments, it said that on page 39 you would have "MAD Asks: What If Pirates Wore Gloves?" Instead, I found part of "Punitive Damages." Rory MacLeod • Montclair, NJ

MacLeody With a Chance of Meatballs — Hmmm...those two things seem unrelated, but we think we understand. After looking for that article and not finding it where you were told it'd be, you felt betrayed. You'd been lied to by a large, heartless corporation (that's us!) and felt angry. You yearned to have your voice heard — and that's how you wound up at OWS. Wow! We can't help but wonder how many others are at Zuccotti Park just because of MAD and our sloppy index paging! Could we appease this entire movement just by making a simple correction? Could it really be that easy to bring peace back to the warring classes?!? Unfortunately, we'll never know. After all, we're not only large and heartless, but also remarkably lazy. So stop whining and get a job, hippie! —Ed.



# **Letters** and **Tomatoes**



## SPY FAMILY REUNION

Some family reunions are just cooler than others. Case in point - take a look at what happened when the family of Spy vs. Spy creator Antonio Prohias got together! His son Antonio and his daughter Marta Rosa Pizarro Prohias (in front, wearing red shirts) got in the full Spy spiritl Maybe we're getting overly sentimental, but we just have a special place in our heart for any family that purchases that much MAD merchandise!



## THE NIFTY FIFTY

It's time for another installment of Ed.'s Nifty Fifty<sup>TM</sup>! When it comes to Celebrity Snaps, this list is the best of the best - the ones we want more than any others! That's where you come in! Send in your non-returnable photographs of the celeb holding an issue via snail mail or to our e-mail

address (letters@madmagazine.com - put "Nifty Fifty" in the subject line) What's in it for you? Why, you heartless mercenaries! If we print your Nifty Fifty Celebrity Snap, you'll win a free two-year subscription to MADI To sweeten things even more - if your Nifty Fifty Celebrity Snap is one of the first SIX that we print, you'll also get an awesome limited-edition "Batman Black and White" statue by Sergio Aragones!



- Michele Bachmann
- Jennifer Aniston
- · Justin Bieber
- · Will Smith
- · Any (White House-Living) Obama
- Any (Culture-Destroying) Kardashlan
- LeBron James
- Tom Cruise
- Rebecca Black
- Mika Brzezinski
- · Louis C.K.
- · Herman Cain

- · Any (Football-

- Daniel Craig

- · Rex Ryan
- · Albert Pujols







- Larry David
- Bettu White
- Stephen Hawking
- Joel Osteen
- · Ricky Gervais
- Jason Bateman
- Helen Mirren





- The Tiger Mom
- Rihanna
- Rooney Mara
- Woody Allen
- Fidel Castro
- . N.J. Gov. Chris Christie
- Jim Cramer
- Rachel Maddow
- Kobayashl
- Jim Parsons
- Robert Downey Jr.
- · Any Astronaut (Must Be in Uniform)
- Jason Segel





- Tim Tebow
- Katy Perry

- Any (Money-Lovin')
- Howard Stern
- Lady Gage



I am 12 years old. I am a huge fan of the magazine. I have been reading it since I was five and I still remember when

NOT-SO-URGENT ISSUES

I got in trouble for reading MAD in 2nd grade because my teacher thought it was a bad influence. But do you think I care? No! But one more thing — why does it take 2 months for each MAD? There is a MAD TV episode

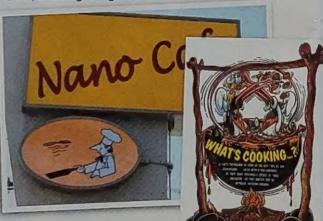
every week. Why not the magazine?

Ben Hantske • Annapolis, MD

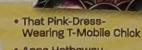
Hants in the Pants — That's a very good question. It seems like a TV show would be harder to create than a magazine — and that a magazine would come out more often than a TV show, right? But you're forgetting one very important factor — and we repeat — we're extremely lazy! On the other hand, when was the last time you picked up an issue of MAD, only to discover it's a rerun? Hmmmm?!? —Ed.

## SPY VS. SPY SIGHTING?

An eagle-eyed reader sent in this picture of the Nano Café in Monrovia, CA, adding, "I think the White Spy may be moonlighting as a fry cook. Or maybe the food he's flipping is poisoned. Well, it's not an exact match, but it reminded me of Spy vs. Spy." it rang a bell for us, too - just take a look at the back cover of MAD's Big Book of Spy Vs. Spy Capers and Other Surprises! Hey, Nano Café, if we're ever in town, we expect our crepes to be on the house - ya follow? Unless you want to hear from the Prohias family! Trust us, you don't want that - just take a look at that family portrait - there's a lot of them, and they're organized!













Justin Timberlake

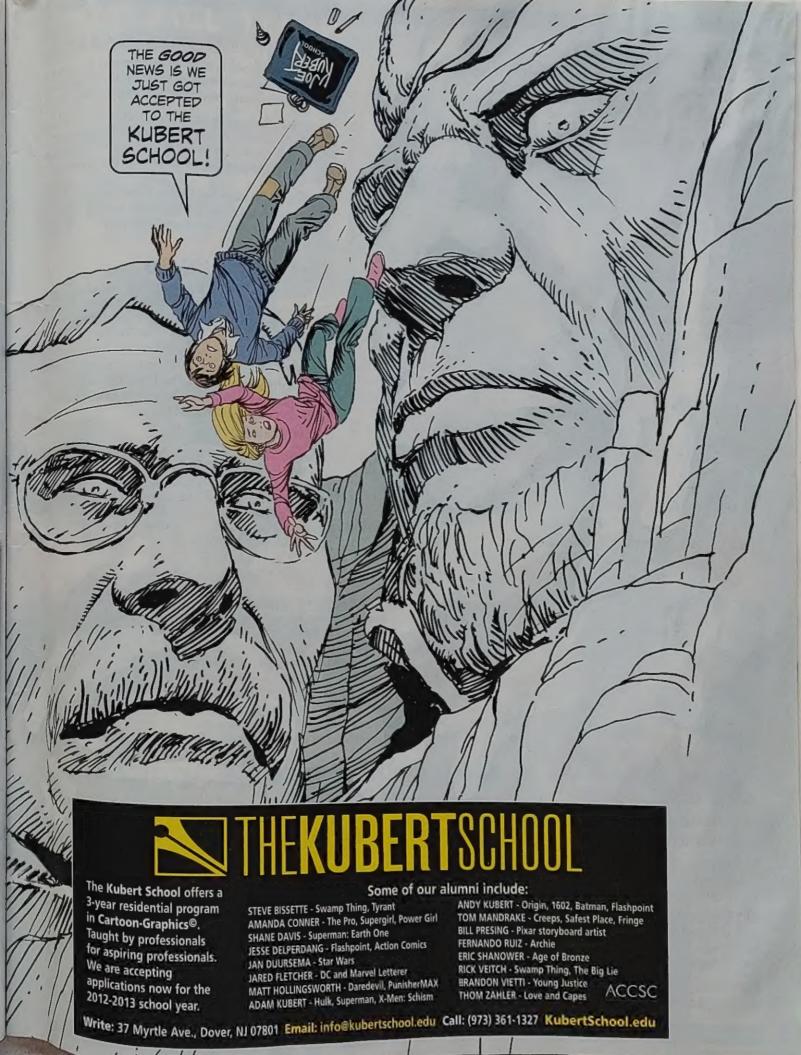






Mila Kunis





# **Letters** and **Tomatoes**

## MAD FAN OF THE MONTH

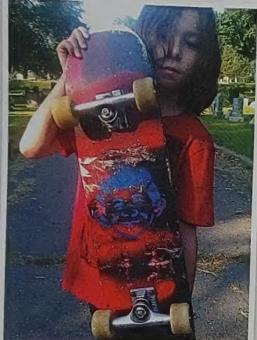
I am 10 years old and I made a skateboard that I think you might like. I used an old MAD stencil.

Shiva Carey New Haven, CT

Carey On - That's a pretty impressive skateboard, Remember, the more rail slides you do, the faster you'll get that hideous face off your deck! -Ed.







## THE QUOTABLE MAD

We know it sounds unbelievable, but every once in a while, someone says something nice about MAD! Which is why we were amazed when it happened TWICE in the same time period



"As a cartoonist, the only thing better than working for MAD Magazine is to have done something big enough to be made fun of by MAD Magazine." Tony Moore, co-creator of The Walking Dead

"For me, I knew that I had made it in my career when I was in MAD Magazine and I got to play with the Muppets." - Whoopi Goldberg



### A STAR IS BURNED

My brothers and I love your magazine and your TV show, even though that probably means we're losers. Anyhow, I love how you guys are always writing parodies of our favorite movies and TV shows ("The Walking Dud" hilarious!), but do the stars and creators love it when you make fun of them? Do you ever receive hate mail and/ or threatening emails from p'd off celebrities? If so, don't worry. They're probably just jealous of your superior journalism skills. Long live MAD!

Michael Bowling · Puxico, MO

Bowling for Columbine — Most celebrities love when they show up in MAD — in fact, you can see what a couple of stars think about it, right on this very letters page (including one of the creators of The Walking Dead)! Not everyone is that happy, though. We're still getting death threats from Alan Thicke for unleashing our superior journalism skills on Growing Pains. (Heheh, we called it "Groaning Pains"!) -Ed.



## READER ALERT

if your letter was printed in this issue, boy HOWDY, did you step into a pile of lucky! You'll be getting Mark Twain's Autobiography 1910-2010 by Michael Kupperman from our friends at Fantagraphics Books; Red Rascal's War: A Doonesbury Book by G.B. Trudeau, courtesy of our amigos at Andrews McMeel Publishing, a Tower Heist DVD/Blu-Ray combo pack (available Feb. 21), courtesy of our chums at Universal Pictures, Justice League: Doom (available Feb. 28) on DVD courtesy of our buds at Warner Home Video; and a copy of Horrifyingly MAD (available only at Barnes and Noble....and, uh, through this giveaway, we guess)! That's a lot of stuff! And it's all yours! Just for a letter! What a country!



### William Gaines Founder John Ficarra Editor

#### **EDITORIAL**

Charlie Kadau, Joe Raiola Senior Editors Dave Croatto Associate Editor

### ART DEPARTMENT

Sam Viviano Art Director Ryan Flanders Assistant Art Director **Doug Thomson Production Artist** 

**Contributing Artists And Writers** The Usual Gang of Idiots

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Dan DiDio and Jim Lee Co-Publishers Geoff Johns Chief Creative Officer

John Rood Executive VP – Sales, Marketing and Business Development

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#### HOW TO REACH US:

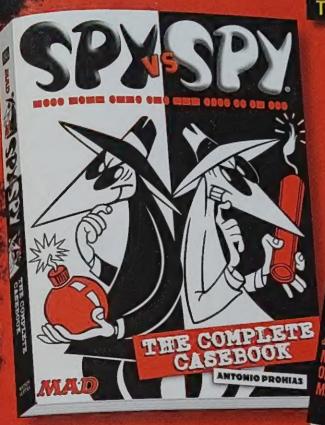
MAD, Dept. 514, 1700 Broadway New York, NY, 10019. Or e-mail us at letters@madmagazine.com

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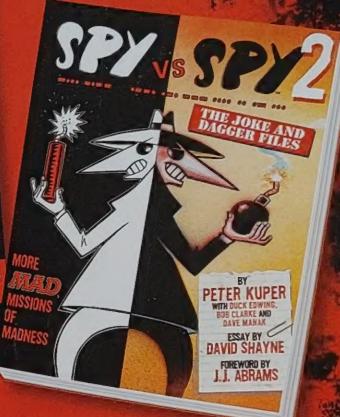
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Bobbleheads, Keychains and other pear, go to

SPYMUSEUMSTORE. ORG



# THE FUNDA



## GIFTS RECEIVED BY JAY-Z AND BEYONCE'S NEW BABY



Miniature Wind Machine by BabyDiva



Crib (5 Bedrooms, 4 Baths, 5,400 sq. ft.)



3D IMAX Baby Monitor



Strolls Royce



"Watch the Throne" Potty Trainer



Diamond-Encrusted Breast Pump



Teething Grammy



Autographed Photo of Kanye West

ni Pages

## **Celebrity Cause-of-Death Betting Odds** KRISTEN STEWART

- Terminal pout......1:1
- Chokes to death on stray Robert Pattinson eyebrow hair.....2:1
- Brain aneurysm brought on by attempting to display an emotion onscreen......3:1
- Dies from food poisoning (along with Lou Ferrigno and Erik Estrada) after eating at "iffy" taco cart at Toledo Sci-fi Festival, 2024.....Even money
- Ironically, dies of complications while donating blood......12:1



# Cards from "Monopoly: The Mitt Romney Edition"

# Slim Chance

AT A CAMPAIGN STOP IN **IOWA, PROCLAIM THAT** "CORPORATIONS ARE PEOPLE, MY FRIEND."

> LOSE CAUCUS TO **RICK SANTORUM**



# Slim Chance

PRAISE YOUR FATHER FOR ONCE TELLING YOU, "NEVER GET INVOLVED IN POLITICS IF YOU HAVE TO WIN AN ELECTION TO PAY A MORTGAGE."

**LOCK IN THE 1% VOTE** 

Slim Chance

WHILE ON THE STUMP IN

SOLIDIFY YOUR IMAGE AS

A COLD-HEARTED



# Slim Chance

CHALLENGE DEBATE OPPONENT TO A \$10,000 BET.

LOSE ALL CREDIBILITY AS "A MAN OF THE PEOPLE"



# Slim Chance

ATTEMPT TO WIN OVER OUT-OF-WORK VOTERS BY TELLING THEM "I'M ALSO UNEMPLOYED."

BECOME A NATIONAL JOKE



# CORPORATE VULTURE Slim Chance

REVEAL THAT LAST YEAR YOU COLLECTED "NOT VERY MUCH" IN SPEAKING FEES: \$374,000.

REAFFIRM YOUR REPUTATION AS A DICKISHLY **OUT-OF-TOUCH AUTOCRAT** 





THE FUNDALINI PAGES

## The Yungbluth & The Restless



"And now, a man who needs no introduction..

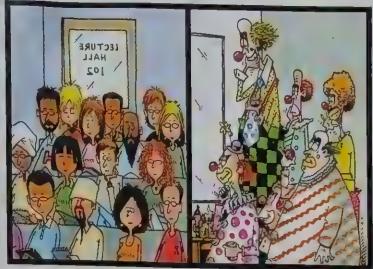
Writer and Artisti



# LINES SURE TO GET APPLAUSE AT GOP DEBATES



# THE STARTLING SIMILARITIES BETWEEN HARVARD UNIVERSITY AND CLOWN COLLEGE



The typical class makeup is filled with diversity



Writer and Artist John Caldwell

In both cases, the faculty tends to be made up of tenure-secured, Sixties relics



Students from both indulge in typical campus hijinks such as panty raids



Both institutions of higher learning offer extensive work with lab animals



Come end of semester, students on both campuses can be found researching 5,000-word papers on subjects about which nobody gives a damn



A degree from either school opens doors

# THE FUNDALINI PAGES

# PRODUCT ACRONYMS YOU NEVER KNEW EXISTED: TECH EDITION



Friendly Application Can Enable Bullying Of Other Kids



Knock Into Nearly
Everything Controlling This



Limited Electricity Affects
Feasibility



Plays A Never-ending Deluge Of Repetitive Artists

## Inspection Tags You Wish You Never Saw

This
Victoria's Secret
garment was
sniffed and
fondled by
Inspector 22.

If you find an odd sock in this package, it means the matching sock was deemed substandard and therefore not included.

Inspected with all the love and care of someone making less than the minimum wage.

This highspeed power saw has been inspected and tested by Lefty.

This is a Dollar Store item. Did you really expect anyone to inspect it?!?

Writer Dick DeBanolo



Molden Retriever

Rottingweiler

Bloodhound (Duh!)

Stench Poodle Border Collie (some zombies have conventional taste)

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In the 1980s, MAD founder and Publisher William M. Gaines established "The Soul of MAD" — a collection of 12 MAD covers chosen for their uniqueness, artistic achievement or classic timelessness.

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Each limited edition print is 11" X 14" and bears a "Soul of MAD" marking. Each is hand-numbered and suitable for framing (it's entirely up to you though — no pressure!).

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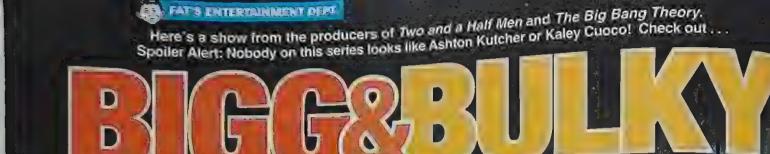
## ALL FOR ONLY \$2999

(\$19.99 for a 1-year, 6-issue subscription but you won't get the limited edition print!

Don't be a tightwad, go for the 2-year subscription!!!)

Limited edition print offer good for U.S. customers only. Sorry, no Canadian or foreign orders accepted for this offer.

KEYCODE AWK MOCC



Hello, my name is Bigg and I'm a parade float!
I'm looking to shed a few pounds. About three hundred! People think overweight people are always jolly, but that's not true. I'm not a happy camper.
In fact, many people on the highway think I am

Uh, we were looking for more positive messages. Perhaps someone else would like to share!

Hello, my name is Bulky! I'm a big girl, but I had a pretty fair week. I dropped six pounds — I lost a hangnail! When I die, here's the way I want to go — I want to be run over by a rolling buffet cart! I haven't met anyone I liked. Until now. I think I'm kind of attracted to the parade float!



Wow! There's a thing between Bigg and Bulky!

That's what our show is about — two chubbies going at it. It could be a beautiful thing! Or, more likely, it could be a run-of-the-mill dating comedy with fat jokes

Well, yeah, that too!

A new world's record for MAD Magazine is being broken

in this splash!

Most fat jokes ever in a splash?

Not comedy — a record for INK. Most ink used to draw two characters! They demolished the record held by Roseanne and John Goodman from back in MAD #287!

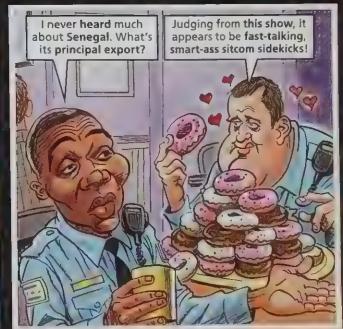
Ya know, this exchange wasn't that funny! I told you, we're not talking comedy. We're talking ink, man, inkl



























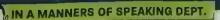












As phones get smarter, their users seem to get dumber! There's no app for proper behavior when using these expensive, time-sucking devices! But there IS the following article! Now get your elbows off the freakin' table and learn from...

# The MAD Guide to SMARTPHONE ETIQUETTE

WRITER: KENNY KEIL

ARTIST: TIM HAMILTON















0

With the release of Twilight, Breaking chested millions in no time with: Dawn, Part 2, the Twilight Saga **GWN** mediacre vampire plotlines You'll be raking in the sparkledespair - because now, thank to MAD, you can crank out your is coming to an end! But don't





A NOTICE FOR JURY DUTY





A PAJAMAGRAM

**BOUGLE-D IMPLANTS** 



THE WINNING LOTTERY NUMBER



AN FTD "SO IN LOVE BOUQUET







A ROBO CALL









PLOOMBERS HEWS

CTERIUMES

THE NBA PLAYERS UNION

THE LONG WITH

OCCUPY WALL STREET PROTESTORS

THE YOUTUR!



TEA SCREENERS

PRIAMSWIFTERERS

LADY GAGA INCPERSONATORS

PILLOW PETS

IBE ROAD TRUCKERS

CHRIS BROWN APOLOGISTS

STEAMPUNK DORKS



ROKU BOX

MOS' CHOICE AWARD.

GROUPON MEMBERSHIF.

GROUPON



THE WEREWOLVES





PINHEADS & PATRIOTS



COUNT CHOCULA















· ACCAUING A LATE FEE

MIEBER PEYER

VOUTUBES COMMENTS SECTION

A SEXTING AMTHORY WEINER.

NEW P





















A MUCH DETTER ACTRESS A MORE DILIGENT FLOSSER



A MAN – YOU KNOW, LIKE CHAZ BONO





A WALMANT BREETEN



HER OWN COMEDY CENTRAL ROAST





WITTING STRL + AUT + BELETE.

MIRAGLE EAR

THE MAYAN CALENDAR





EXTREME COUPONING







THE SIDE SALAB

COOPER PROJECT

MAKING A SECOND FACIAL EXPRESSION

FRUENDSKIP



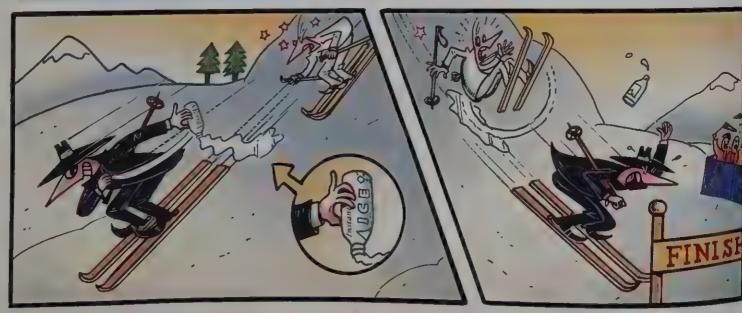


WHAT'S BEHIND DOOR #1

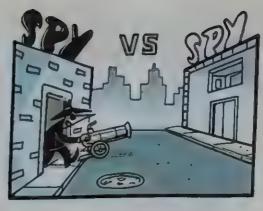






























KUPER



No Head Too Big or Small! (Sorry, no redheads)

We're done in 60 seconds or your stitches are free! Fill-A-Bag

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Wednesdays! You sweep it, you keep it!

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vangoghbarbers.com







Conveniently located between the train overpass where the homeless camp out when it rains and that liquor store that's been robbed three times in the last month, in the heart of Mealmouth County!



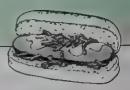
Clandestine Drug Deals on Premises OK



Our Pledge: We Will Not Reuse Uneaten Coleslawl



Out-of-Control, Loud, Rude Teenagers Welcome **At All Times** 





THE EXTERMINATOR WITH THE PUNNY BUG NAME THAT **REALLY DOESN'T MAKE** ANY SENSE IF YOU STOP TO THINK ABOUT IT.

> If you see one cockroach, there are plenty more you don't see, thousands of them, between walls, in the pantry and crawling on your food)

Call us today, and we'll sign you up to an expensive monthly service contract, when really all you need is a can of Raid.





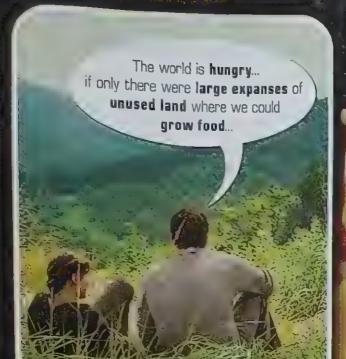












SNACK TO THE FUTURE DEPT.

I swear, if they
force us to reenact
the dance from "Thriller"
one more time.

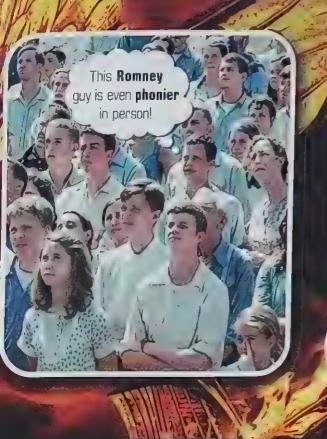


This is the last time I ever go on a Japanese game show!

# Dreadfully Undercooked THE HUNGER



The Capitol took everything from me — my friends.. my father... my \*grunt\* toilet...



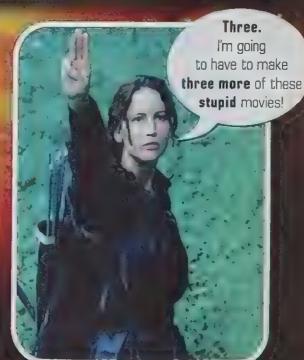


Look, know you can whistle "Stairway to Heaven," but that won't help us now!

# **GAMES**Outtakes

I'm not shy... this is just where go to fart!





#### THE BULL OF RIGHTS DEPT.

One of the greatest glories of our nation is "The Constitution." It assures us of our Rights in our Democracy. If you're an Adult, that is! But if you

happen to be a Kid, it doesn't apply! Oh sure, it's supposed to protect everybody, but today there's one group that violates the Constitutional Rights

# PARENTS ARE UNCONSTITU

AMENDMENT I
(There shall be) "...no law...abridging
the freedom of speech..."

AMENDMENT I

(There shall be) "...no law...abridging
the right of people to peaceably assemble..."



AMENDMENT V

...nor shall any person...for the same offense...
be twice put in jeopardy of life and limb..."



We weren't doing anything...just listening to some albums...!

If you think we're going to allow a bunch of bums to use this place as a clubhouse, you got another think coming!

AMENDMENT V
"No person...shall be compelled...
to be a witness against himself..."



of Kids constantly. Know who they are? The Commies? The Nazis? No, they're much closer to home! Take a look at this article, and you'll see why we say...



ARTIST: PAUL COKER WRITER: STAN HART

# TIONAL

AMENDMENT I
(The people have a right) "...to petition
for a redress of grievances..."



"... nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation..."



AMENDMENT I

(There shall be) "...no law respecting an establishment of religion..."



AMENDMENT IV

"The right...to be secure against...unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated..."



AMENDMENT VI
"...the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy...trial..."



#### **AMENDMENT VI** ... the accused shall... be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation..."



### **AMENDMENT VI** "...the accused shall...have the assistance of counsel for his defense..."

#### NEVER What's Oh...aren't we "Miss Innocence"?!? I HEARD MIND told wrong?!? who told you WHAT?? Why what you two were doing down here!! me are you angry?? whatli

AMENDMENT VI "...the accused shall...be confronted

with the witnesses against him..."

AMENDMENT VII "...the right of trial by jury shall be preserved ...

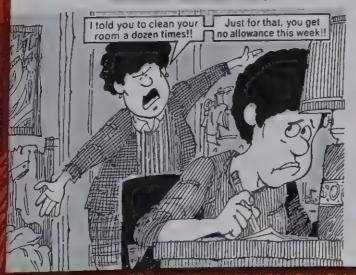


AMENDMENT VIII "...excessive fines (shall not be) imposed..."



AMENDMENT VIII ... cruel and unusual punishment (shall not be) inflicted ... "

What do you













KIT LIVELY & SCOTT NICKEL







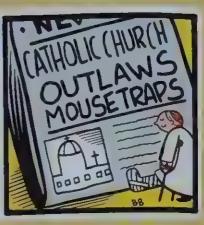














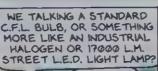














OF COURSE IT MATTERS! BUT, IF IT'S JUST A BULB; IT SHOULD ONLY TAKE ONE PERSON, UNLESS IT'S GOT COMPLICATED HOUSING OR THEY'RE AN IDIOT.

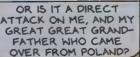






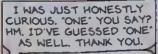
NOBLE POLAND? POLAND WHICH IS STILL TRYING TO RE-ESTABLISH A NATIONAL IDENTITY AFTER BEING SPLIT AS SPOILS BETWEEN NAZI GERMANY AND THE SOVIET UNION?











OH WAIT. I FORGOT, YOU'D ALSO NEED TWO GUYS TO TURN THE STEPLADDER



I DON'T ... UH ... WHAT











PEET TAMB

#### **GOT YOUR NOSE**







DID A TRUCK HIT YOU? WAS IT A







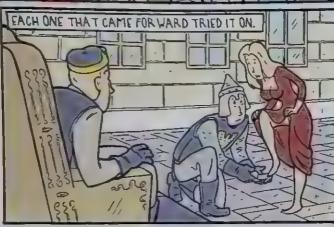




#### JUST BELOW THE SURFACE

























#### BANANA REPUBLICAN

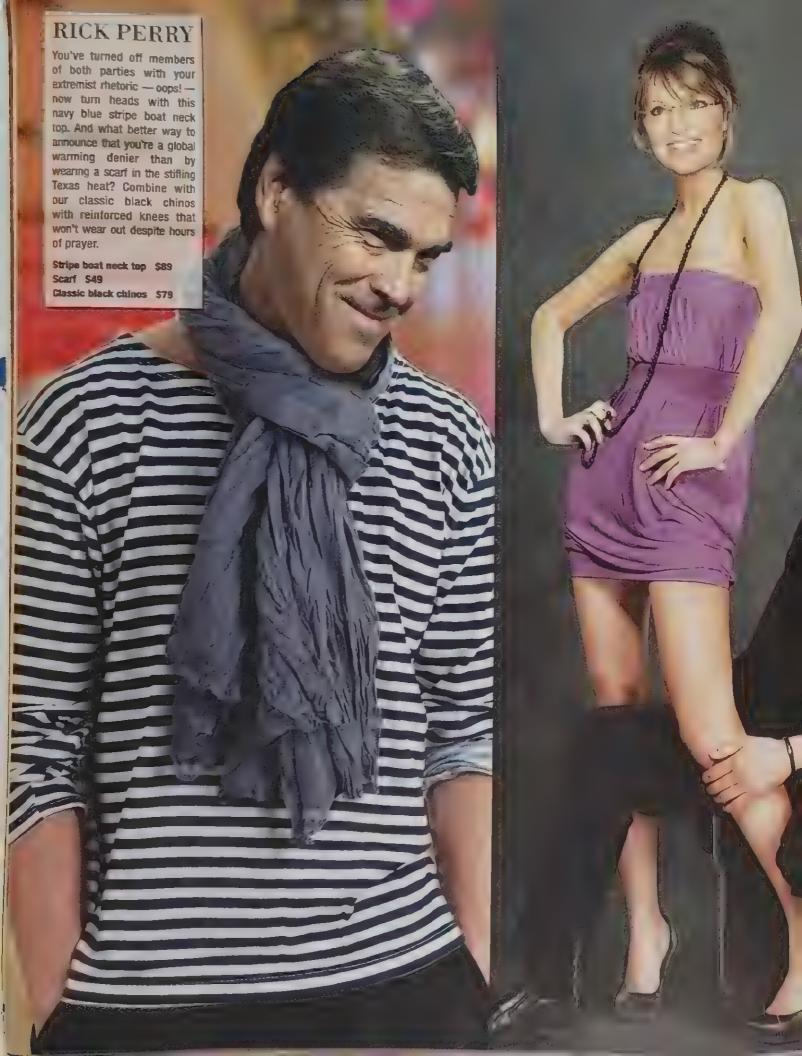
#### MICHELE BACHMANN

Your political views are stuck in the 1950's, and now you've got the style to match! Our classic taffeta cocktail dress is such a stunner, your critics will be too distracted to notice your latest embarrassing flub. Finish the look with these Ruby Red sling-back pumps, so clegant and alluring that even your husband will want to try them on!

Classic taffeta cocktail dress \$250 Ruby Red sling-back pumps \$300

WRITER: FRANK SANTOPADRE

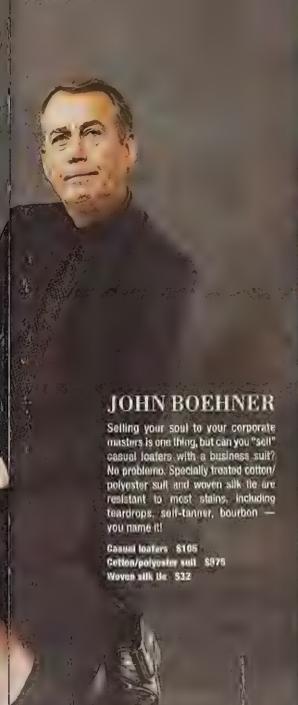
ARTIST: SCOTT BRICHER





Can you look like a million bucks even when the GOP isn't spending a million on your warcrobe? You betchat Our strapless tube dress is ideal for work and play, whether you're shooting down Democratic initiatives or shooting woives from a chopper. Best of all, Spandex knit is both flexible and substantial, even if you're neither.

Strapless tube dress \$175

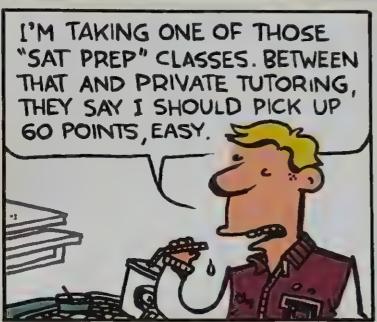




















## Planet TADIIII

C) (X) (A) ((http://www.galaxyo'blogs.com/planettad





ABOUT ME "NAME: TAD "AGE: HH HH || "OPINION ON ICARLY: IDONTCARE



March 1, 2012

made the shape of a bear. Which "big bear," because apparently, In class today, I learned that the Big Dipper is part of a constellation called the Greeks thought the stars "Ursa Major", which means means they looked at this:



And saw this:



I dunno. Either the used to look really Greeks were really creative, or bears different.

So, I came home from school today, and my mom said, "I have two surprises for you!"

piano." And she smiled and said, "No, not yet." And I said, "Oh, did you sign up for lessons?" And she said, "That's my second surprise for you!" Which automatically made me nervous, because my mom never says "I have a surprise for you" when it's something good. And then she said, "Go into the den!" So I went in there, and there was a piano in it. "I a piano, but I couldn't resist!" And I said, "None of us even play the was driving home and saw a sign that said 'PIANO - FREE TO GOOD HOME'I" she said. "I don't know why anyone would ever give away

Yes. My mom has signed me up for piano lessons.

This is why I hate my mom's surprises.

already figured out how to play three songs: Wy first piano lesson is tomorrow, but I've

- 2) If you play any high note over and over and over 1) If you play any two notes on the low end of the piano, it's the theme from "Jaws".
  - again, it's the sound of a serial killer chasing someone through a house.
- 3) If you pound down a bunch of keys all at once, it's someone falling down stairs in a cartoon.

don't know why people make such a big deal out of composing music. It turns out it's pretty easy.

# March 4, 2012

So, today was my first piano lesson. It was with a guy named Mr. Fitzhoff. He showed me which keys are which, and taught me how to play "Mary Had a Little Lamb". When I got home, I showed my sister Sophie. She said, "Oh, yeah! I remember learning to play that on the oboe! When I was six."

# March 11, 2012

Today was Daylight Savings Time, so at 2 AM, the clocks sprung forward. I never understand the name "Daylight Savings" Time" — it's not like you get an extra hour of daylight out of it, or you're even saving any time for later. It's more like 'Daylight Put An Extra Hour on the Clock So You Can Take It Back In Seven Months Time." Anyway. I was really hoping that my mom wouldn't notice, so I could miss my piano lesson. But before I even got up this morning, Sophie had gone around the house and re-set all the clocks, because that's the sort of awful, helpful thing my sister does My lesson went fine. Mr. Fitzhoff said that I should really practice more. I asked him how I'd know if I was practicing enough, and he said, "Well, when you can play more than three notes in a row correctly, that'd be a start." So that's good to know. Today is the "Ides of March", which is a fancy way of saying "March 15." In English, Mr. Parker told us about this Shakespeare play where a soothsayer tells Julius Caesar, "Beware the ides of March," but he doesn't listen, couldn't he just say, "Hey, your friend's going to stab you and then he gets stabbed in the back by his best friend. have to say: That's a pretty crappy soothsayer. Why in the back"?



## March 18, 2012

Mainly because, when I showed up, he sighed and said, "Oh, want to get any better at playing the piano. He told me that, when Piano lesson again today. I don't think Mr. Fitzhoff likes me. you grew up, huh?" And he paused for a really long time, and then "Wow. So you must've really wanted to be a piano teacher when right. You." He said that I really should practice a lot more, if I he was a kid, he practiced for two hours every day. And I said,

## March 20, 2012

meaning to, but I never have the time." And she said, "You watched practicing the piano very much." And I said, "Yeah, I keep Tonight at dinner, my mom said, "Tad, I don't notice you all of 'Hawaii Five-O' last night. You could've practiced then." Nobody wants to hear me practice." But that gave me an idea. And I was just about to say, "Yeah, but I can't play really well.

Tonight, after dinner, I sat down and practiced the piano. I practiced "Mary Had a Little Lamb," over and over, for a solid two hours. I never played it right once.

## March 21, 2012

sounding even worse. My mom came in and asked me making sure that "Mary Had a Little Lamb" is if Mr. Fitzhoff had taught me any other songs. I told Another night of practicing. If anything, I'm her no, and then went back to playing it wrong.

## March 22, 2012

her, because she started turning the TV volume up. So I practiced even watching "Top Chef", and I could tell it was beginning to annov Still more practicing. Tonight, my mom was in the next room, louder. And the more she turned up the TV, the louder I practiced.

## March 23, 2012

my mom came in and said, "Tad? Honey? How much more do you think you'll be practicing today?" And I said, "My teacher says it sometimes doesn't even sound like a song anymore. After about a half an hour, takes years just to master one song." And her eye twitched a little, point where I can play "Mary Had a Little Lamb" so badly, it and then she said, "You know what? I'm thinking maybe music isn't where your gifts lie. Maybe we should find another hobby for you." So I acted all sad, and then I went up to my room and made a sign: Today, I sat down and practiced again - I've gotten to the

#### GOOD HOME DZYZ FREE TO

might be using I think we it soon.



Let's face it, you need to

set in shape. But you can't

do it alone — you're the

one who got yourself into

this most (Remember

cheeseinurge panoaces?

That was You're form need a

trainer! But before you

pick one, you'd better keep

an (Increasingly-fat) eye

out for these...

Oh, THOSE Reps. I thought we were talking about lizards and stuff.



## Clues You've Hired A Not-So-

I Look fat today, don't I? I am so GROTESQUE!

Her self-esteem is lower than yours.





Shouldn't we at Least watch, Like, an exercise show? Nope You burn the same amount of calories watching the OTB channel.



You're not getting the motivation you were counting on.

Jeesh, You know it Looks

Really mild out, and that can lead
to cramping. I think we should
just do some stretches and make

some healthy smoothies.



When it's time to exercise, she's even better at making excuses than you are.



HeY, Mr. Big! Ready for some Power Laps!?!

appoints
and.

She shows up to your sessions on a Hoveround.

## Certified Personal Trainer

So, this will replenish my electrolytes?

Um, oh, totally-and it washes down nachos Really good too.

You've never heard of re-hydrating with Dr Pepper before.

Whoa-perfect form! Are You sure You never did this before?



He swears the bean bag chair gets far better results than the yoga ball.

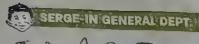
... Yeah, it acts as a calming agent to Your exhausted heart.

WRITERIAND ARTHUT





Part of the "cool down" is a Marlboro Light.



Sergio Arazones
Presente









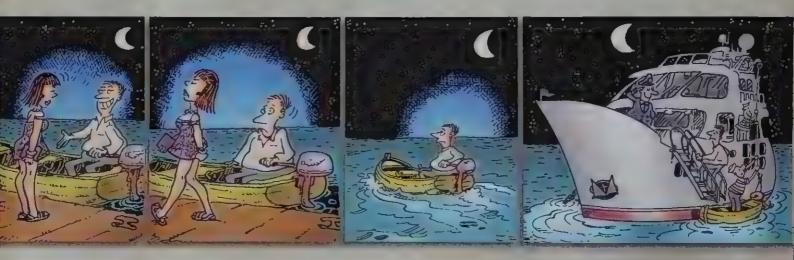










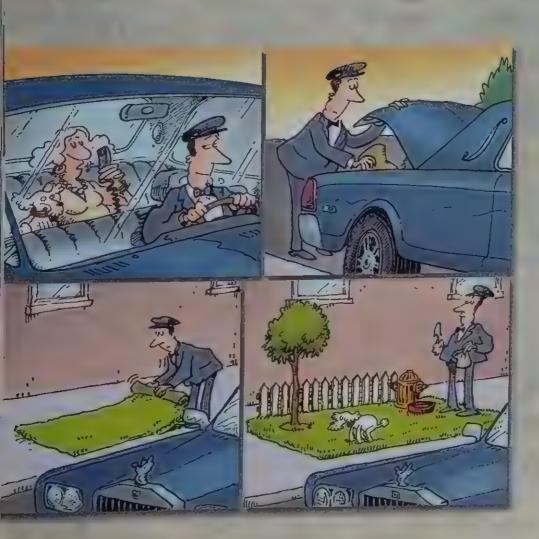


WRITER AND ARTIST: BERGIO ARAGINES

COLORIST: TOM LUTH













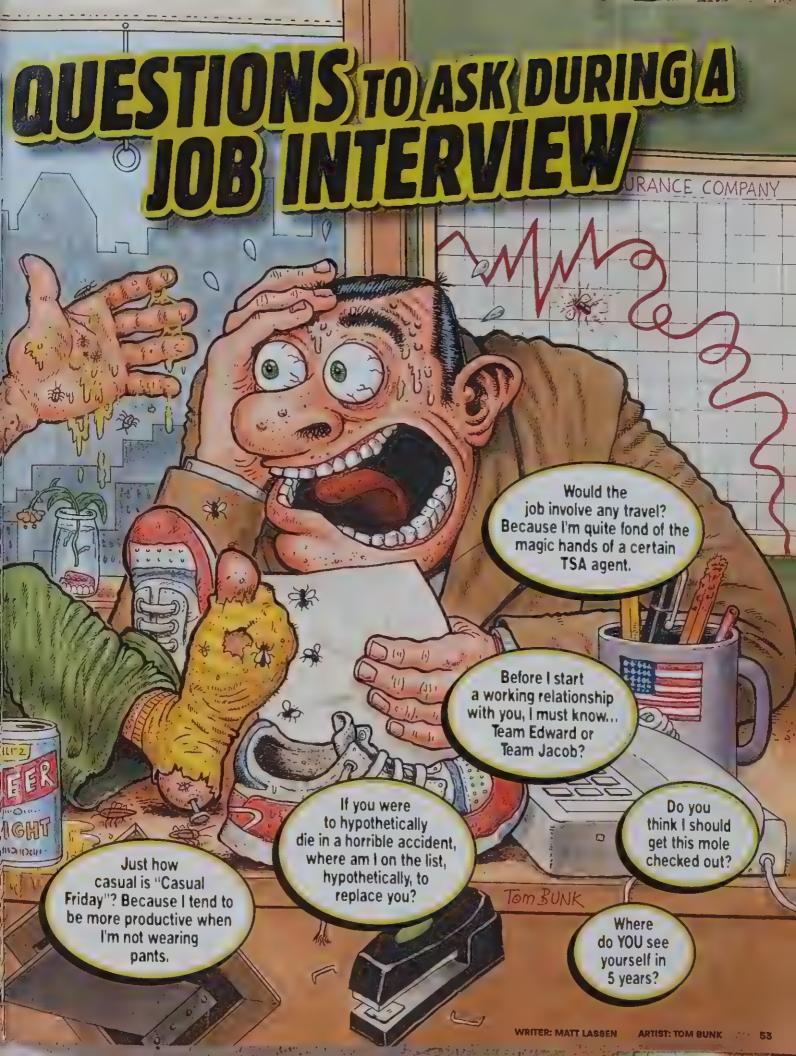






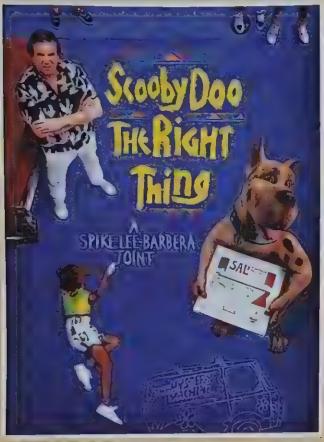


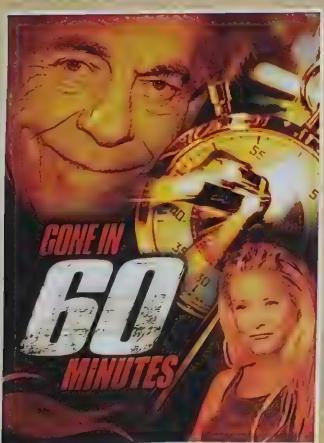




#### BIRTH OF A COMBINATION DEPT.

A few issues back we published a scathing indictment on the unimaginative film industry and its propensity to make sequel upon sequel upon sequel. We continue our puckish criticism of this horrendous practice with this sequel article...





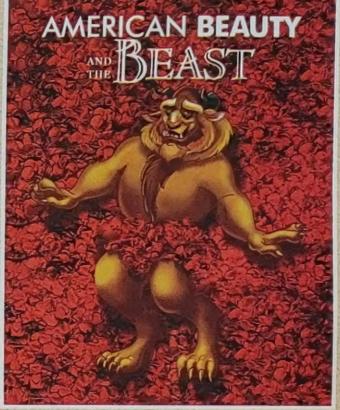






## WE'D HATE TO SEE







## TOTO EDITION SPECIAL MINISTERNOLLY





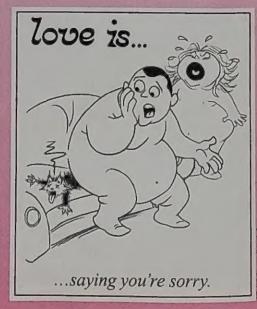










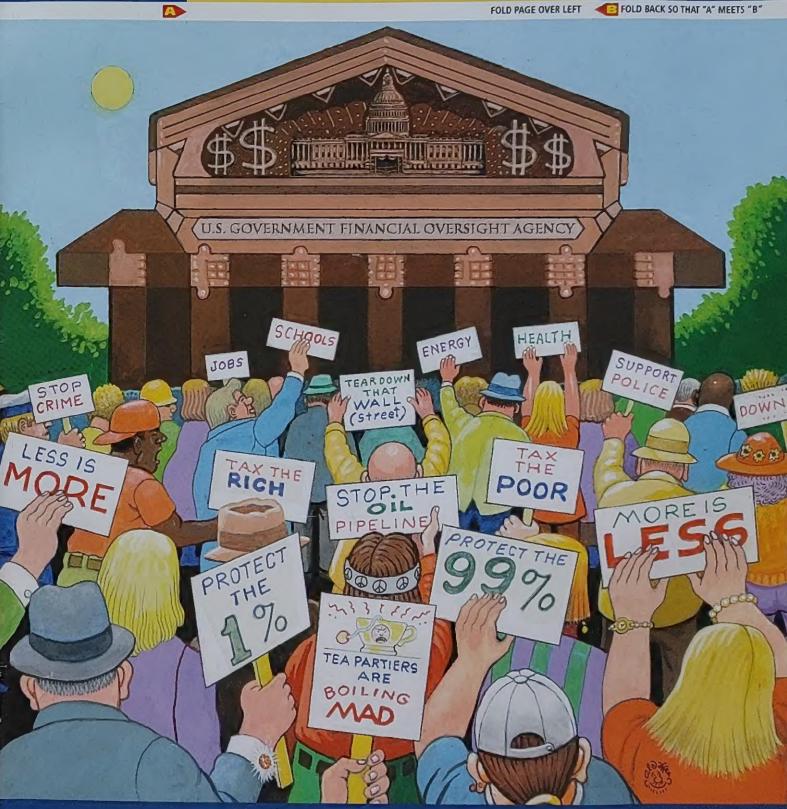


WHAT POLITICAL MOVEMENT HAVE POLITICIANS FROM BOTH PARTIES EMBRACED?

#### HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS

These are tumultuous political times. The country is divided, and every day there's a new group or ideology that unites some people while alienating others. For a politician, it's an art form to ingratiate yourself with these people without being despised by their opponents. Thankfully, there's at least one movement that every politician — regardless of party — is able to agree on!





TODAY, POLITICAL FIGHTS ARE BITTER. WE ALL ACHE FOR MORE CIVILITY. BUT WHAT WE GET IS NASTY LIP SERVICE BLAMING EACH OTHER. THEY ALL KEEP FLINGING HEAPING AMOUNTS OF MUD WITHOUT STOP



## The Idiotical

Theldiotical.con

THE OFFICIAL BLOG OF MAD MAGAZINE